PART

1

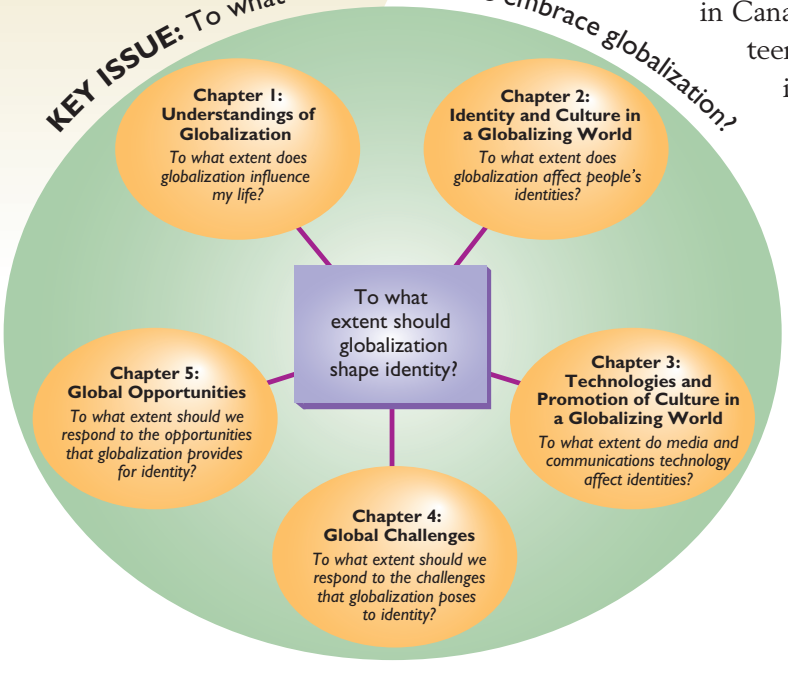
Relationships among Globalization, Identity, and Culture

The Key Issue for this course asks, ***To what extent should we embrace globalization?*** The first step you will take in exploring this issue is to explore the Main Issue for Part 1: ***To what extent should globalization shape identity?*** This is a question that could be asked by anyone on our planet. As you begin to explore the ideas in the chapters that follow, you may discover that globalization has very long arms. It reaches far and wide around our world. It affects virtually everyone.

Perhaps you think that globalization doesn't affect you? Stop for a moment and think about this metaphor: A frog in a pot on the stove will not realize that the temperature is slowly increasing. The frog will quietly sit there—perhaps feeling a little warm—until it is half cooked. Globalization works in a similar way. It slowly creeps up on you. Ever so gradually it changes what you do, how you live, what you love, and who you are. How will you cope with it? Be aware. By knowing you are "in the pot," you will be empowered.

The Photographs

The photographs on the opposite page show two entertainments in Canada's North. At top, you see Inuit children and teenagers playing video games in an amusement room in Baker Lake, Nunavut. Perhaps they are relaxing after a day at school. By being drawn into this technology, however, they are being affected by cultural influences that come from outside their Inuit community. They might be games designed in Montréal, Canada; Tokyo, Japan; or San Francisco, United States. This is cultural globalization affecting people.


KEY ISSUE: To what extent should we embrace globalization?
Chapter 1: Understandings of Globalization
To what extent does globalization influence my life?
Chapter 2: Identity and Culture in a Globalizing World
To what extent does globalization affect people's identities?
To what extent should globalization shape identity?
Chapter 5: Global Opportunities
To what extent should we respond to the opportunities that globalization provides for identity?
Chapter 3: Technologies and Promotion of Culture in a Globalizing World
To what extent do media and communications technology affect identities?
Chapter 4: Global Challenges
To what extent should we respond to the challenges that globalization poses to identity?

In every chapter in Part 1, you will explore an issue that will help you form an opinion about the Main Issue for Part 1 of this text: ***To what extent should globalization shape identity?*** Look at the five Chapter Issues. Which one do you think will interest you most?

People who like playing video games might keep on playing and playing … and playing. The teenagers you see here, though, probably limit the time they spend playing video games. They might choose to spend some of their free time, for example, taking part in activities that increase their ties to their Inuit community. Look at the Inuit teens shown in the 1999 photograph on the right. It might take you a moment to figure out what the picture shows. The teens are playing the Inuit blanket tossing game, in which the winner is the player who bounces the highest.

As you begin to explore Part 1 of *Perspectives on Globalization*, you will have an opportunity to think about the many ways that globalization affects your life and your identity. You can begin to form an opinion about the degree to which you want globalization to affect who you are and who you will become.